

FOCUS ON THE ARTS

CULTURAL ARTS

FALL 2004

Paley to be Honored at 9th FSF Literary Conference on Oct. 23

Grace Paley, the highly acclaimed writer of short stories and poems, will receive the prestigious F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award on Saturday, Oct. 23, at the ninth annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference at Montgomery College in Rockville.



Grace Paley

writer who regularly vacationed with relatives in Rockville and eventually elected to be buried in the city, is the only festival or conference on the East Coast for the literary arts.

The conference grew out of Rockville's F. Scott Fitzgerald centennial celebration in 1996. It was the only activity from the year-long celebration that sustained and grew into a more meaningful event for the community.

This year's featured speaker will be Michael Dirda, a long-time editor and writer for the *Washington Post Book World*. He will talk about *"Reading and Reviewing: 25 Years at The Washington Post Book World."* Workshops will be conducted in fiction, playwriting, memoirs, poetry and children's literature. Other highlights include a tour of F. Scott Fitzgerald sites in Rockville, presentation of the awards for the annual open and high school short story contests.

The conference has sought Paley for past conferences, but this the first year in which the timing fit into her schedule. John Moser, chairman of the FSF Literary Conference Committee, said the conference committee, which includes local academia, politicians and conference attendees, selects honorees who have made major ca-

reer contributions to American literature. "We are very pleased to honor the most outstanding short story writer in the United States," said Moser.

Paley's works include "The Little Disturbances of Man," "Enormous Changes at the Last Minute" and "Later the Same Day." Her talents have been recognized with the Edith Wharton Citation of Merit, a Guggenheim fellowship and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for her lifetime contribution to literature.

"The committee tries to build on the

conference every year, by tweaking the day's activities and expanding as much as we can," said Moser.

Conference attendance has continually grown for both the workshops and the honors ceremonies that conclude the day. This year, more than 250 entries were received for the short story contests. Winners receive cash awards and an invitation to speak at next year's conference.

Early registration is encouraged for workshops as space is limited.

The conference benefits the literary arts, the community and the City of Rockville and is always in need of energetic volunteers who would like to be involved in developing future conferences. For more information on the conference or to learn about volunteer opportunities, call 301-309-9461.

Details of the Ninth Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference, including guest speakers and the conference schedule, can be found on Page 2 of this Focus on the Arts insert.

Recipients of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature

1996: William Styron
1997: John Barth
1998: Joyce Carol Oates
1999: E.L. Doctorow
2000: Norman Mailer
2001: Ernest J. Gaines
2002: John Updike
2003: Edward Albee
2004: Grace Paley

Enjoy High Art and High Tea on Oct. 24 At 'The Art of Tea'

Art appears in everyday life, but it is often overlooked. On Sunday, Oct. 24, Rockville Arts Place will examine the unique artistry of "The Art of Tea" at Rockville's Glenview Mansion as part of a special fundraising event.

The work of more than 50 artists from across the nation will be on exhibit from 1-3 p.m. along with an elegant afternoon tea. The proceeds go toward helping Rockville Arts Place create its future premier visual arts facility that will be part of the new Rockville Town Center.

"The Art of Tea" will include unique teapots and tea cups, both decorative and functional, available for purchase. In addition, a wide selection of tea and sweets will be available for all guests.

Tickets for "The Art of Tea" are \$50 per person and advance reservations are required. Reservations can be made by contacting Rockville Arts Place at its temporary home on 9300 Gaither Road in Gaithersburg (just outside the Rockville City limits) at 301-869-8623 or by e-mail at [pubrelations@rockvilleartsplace.org](mailto:pубrelations@rockvilleartsplace.org).



Laura Perry, "Seamstress Teapot"

Rockville Arts Place Opens New Location



Rockville Arts Place celebrated its grand opening at the new Gaithersburg location during an open house on Sept. 12.

Rockville Arts Place (RAP) was a fixture for 17 years on East Middle Lane as part the strip shopping center that was demolished last month to pave the way for Phase I of the new Rockville Town Square development. The City worked with RAP to find its temporary location at 9300 Gaither Road in what is technically Gaithersburg, but figuratively is just outside of the City limits, north of Shady Grove Road.

The temporary home, and thoughts of the opportunities its new permanent home will bring, have brought new faces and new ideas to RAP.

"It has been an exciting summer for Rockville Arts Place," said Debra Moser, executive director of RAP.

The resident artist studios, gallery and educational facilities will reside in Gaithersburg while the new 25,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility is constructed

adjacent to the new Rockville Regional Library in Town Center.

"We have been astonished at the traffic our new location brings," said Moser.

More than 200 people attended the first gallery opening and there has been considerable walk-in traffic.

The Gaithersburg center houses classroom space, two galleries, offices and a gallery shop featuring fine art crafts. Classroom space beyond what was available in its Town Center location will allow for expansion of the education program, especially into the media arts such as film and animation. The facilities also include an enlarged darkroom, a photo studio, a computer graphics lab, a glass studio, a dedicated kids' classroom, kilns and a ceramics studio.

"Even though we have gained more space, we are still bursting at the seams," said Moser. "The more space we get, the more space we need."

Twelve artists have moved into new studio space, which include ceramic artists, graphic designers, painters and jewelry artists.

"I like the studio space, especially the outside windows to let in the natural light," said David Epstein, a graphic designer and illustrator who made the move. "This place has a cleaner look, and is more conducive to making art."

Moser said landing in a temporary location that is much more than was expected has given early momentum to the plans for the new permanent home.

"Rockville Arts Place is now on a fast and exciting road as we begin to plan the new programs and design our new building in Town Center," said Moser. "This move to larger, more contemporary space is critical as the organization has experienced great growth with more than 800 members, 85 visual arts classes and workshops, 200 summer camp participants and unique community outreach programs."

For updated information on RAP exhibits and other events, call 301-309-6900 or visit www.rockvilleartsplace.org.

RAP Exhibits

A Sense of Place Sept. 12-Oct. 9

- Sponsored by King Farm Village Center
- Constance Bergfors, Neena Birch, Prescott Moore Lassman
- Three diverse artists share a common attitude to place, evoking images of urban and natural landscapes.

Material Matters Oct. 17-Nov. 13

- Mahasti Mudd, Marcia Wolfson Ray
- Opening: Oct. 17, 3-5 p.m.
- Mahasti Mudd's installation, created on site, will be constricted from recycled materials and found objects. Over the course of one day, the installation will take form in a space that is 30 feet by 12 feet.
- Marcia Wolfson Ray's sculptures represent her feelings about nature and conveys the sense of mystery that she feels is at the center of life.

2004 Award Honoree

GRACE PALEY will be the recipient of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature. Paley is a highly acclaimed writer of short stories and poems. Her works include *The Little Disturbances of Man*, *Enormous Changes at the Last Minute* and *Later the Same Day*. Her awards include the Edith Wharton Citation of Merit, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for her lifetime contribution to literature. One of her students was award-winning author Alice Walker, who wrote *The Color Purple*.



Featured Speakers

MICHAEL DIRDA, a longtime writer and editor for *The Washington Post Book World*, received the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for criticism. He is the author of *Readings: Essays and Literary Entertainments*, the memoir *An Open Book*, and most recently, *Bound to Please*, a collection of essays on great writers and their books.



ALICE McDERMOTT's first novel, *A Bigamist's Daughter*, was published to widespread critical acclaim. Other successes followed with *That Night*, *At Weddings and Wakes* and *Charming Billy*. Her fifth novel, *Child of My Heart*, was published in 2002. Ms. McDermott's short stories have appeared in *Ms.*, *Redbook*, *Mademoiselle* and *Seventeen*. The recipient of a Giles Whiting Foundation Award, Ms. McDermott now teaches writing at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.



Fiction Workshop Leaders

MAXINE CLAIR is the author of a collection of poems, *Coping With Gravity*, and *Battlebone*, a collection of short stories. Her novel, *October Suite*, was nominated for the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award for Fiction. She is Associate Professor of English at George Washington University.



ALAN CHEUSE is a novelist, story writer and journalist. He has written *The Grandmothers' Club*, *The Light Possessed* and *Lost and Old Rivers*, and the memoir *Fall Out of Heaven*. He serves as book commentator for NPR's evening news-magazine *All Things Considered* and teaches in the writing program at George Mason University. His recent essay collection, *Listening to the Page: Adventures in Reading and Writing*, has just appeared in paperback. New short fiction has recently appeared in the *Prairie Schooner* and *The Idaho Review*.



PATRICIA ELAM is a free-lance writer and commentator. Her writings have been published in *The Washington Post*, *Essence*, *Emerge*, *Newsday* and in anthologies such as *Father's Songs* and *New Stories from the South*. A winner of the 1997 O. Henry Award, she has been a commentator for National Public Radio, NBC News, CNN and the BBC. Patricia currently teaches writing at The Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C. Her first novel, *Breathing Room*, was published in 2001.



Memoirs Workshop Leader

E. ETHELBERT MILLER is the former chair of the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C., and is a faculty member at Bennington College. Miller's *In Search of Color Everywhere* was awarded the 1994 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award, and his work *Synergy: An Anthology of Washington D.C. Black Poetry* was a Book-of-the-Month Club selection. His most recent book is *Beyond The Frontier*.



Poetry Workshop Leader

SEAN ENRIGHT has taught fiction, poetry and writing workshops at the University of Maryland, The Writer's Center and Trinity College. His poems and reviews have appeared in *TriQuarterly*, *Threepenny Review*, *The Sewanee Review* and *The Kenyon Review*. His novel, *Goof and Other Stories*, received the Editor's Choice in *The Baltimore Sun*.



Children's Literature Workshop Leader

ELLEN BRAAF is a freelance writer, educator and has published juvenile and adult fiction, nonfiction and humor. A frequent contributor and columnist for *ASK* (Arts and Sciences for Kids), she serves as Mid-Atlantic Regional Advisor for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and as co-chair of Northern Virginia Writers. She teaches at The Writer's Center in Bethesda.



Playwriting Workshop Leader

ERNEST JOSELOVITZ, as founder of the Playwrights Forum, received the Tony Taylor Award from the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington. He most recently won a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding New Play (Metro D.C.), a Barrymore Award for outstanding New Play (Philadelphia), and for his newest play, a Streisand Award.



Panelists and Presenters

JUDY HRUZ is editor of the *Rockville Gazette* and co-author of *Treason in the White House*, a political thriller. She worked at the *York Dispatch* in York, Pa., for 10 years before joining the *Gazette* in 1988. She is a regular panelist and frequent moderator on the *Gazette's* cable television public affairs program, *Gazette Newsmakers*.



EILEEN MCGUCKIAN has authored numerous works on topics in Rockville history and is well known as a co-founder and executive director of Peerless Rockville. In December, 2001, the City of Rockville published her definitive history, *Rockville: Portrait of a City*. Ms. McGuckian has been recognized for her leadership in historic preservation. *Portrait of a City* has received awards throughout the state of Maryland.



9TH ANNUAL F. SCOTT FITZGERALD LITERARY CONFERENCE Saturday, October 23, 2004

ABOUT THE LITERARY CONFERENCE: Celebrating the 108th birthday of the great American author and the art of writing, the Ninth Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference offers the unique opportunity for aspiring writers to have their work critiqued by accomplished writers in the specialty field of their choice, be it fiction, poetry, memoirs, playwriting or children's literature. The conference comes to a close with the awarding of the prestigious Ninth Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature to Grace Paley.

ABOUT F. SCOTT FITZGERALD: F. Scott Fitzgerald, author of *The Great Gatsby*, *Tender is the Night* and other classics and short stories, lived and wrote some of his greatest works in Maryland. He spent childhood summers with relatives in the Rockville area. He, his wife Zelda and their daughter, Scottie, are buried at historic Saint Mary's Church Cemetery in Rockville.

ABOUT THE SPONSORS: The 2004 F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference is organized by the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. The conference committee thanks its supporters, whose generous contributions of services, facilities, staff and/or funds make the conference possible:

Conference Sponsors: City of Rockville, Montgomery College, The JBG Companies, Gazette Newspapers, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery Co., Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd., Woodfin Suites Hotel, F. Scott Fitzgerald Society, The Writer's Center (Bethesda)

Short Story Contest Sponsor: Rockville Cultural Arts Commission

BECOME A MEMBER OF FSF LITERARY CONFERENCE, INC.: The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. invites new members. The nonprofit organization was founded in 1998 to promote appreciation of the literary arts and to support an annual conference recognizing the achievements of major American writers. Yearly membership begins on June 1 of the current conference year and ends on May 31 of the following year.

2004-2005 Membership Levels: \$15 Student • \$20 Senior • \$25 Individual • \$40 Family • \$100-249 FSF Friend • \$250-499 FSF Benefactor • \$500-999 FSF Patron • \$1,000 and above FSF Sponsor • \$2,500 and above FSF Corporate Sponsor

Individual: Includes 10 percent discount on conference events, plus waiver of entry fee for adult writing competition, advance notice of conference events and related special events, special conference reception, quarterly newsletter *The Glimmer* and listing of members in conference program. **Family:** All benefits of *Individual membership* for four members of immediate family. **Senior:** (65 and older) All benefits of *Individual membership*. **Student:** (High school or full-time College) All benefits of *Individual membership*. **FSF Friend:** All benefits of *Individual membership*, plus signed copy of a work by FSF Award recipient and special recognition in conference program. **FSF Benefactor:** All benefits of *Friend membership*, plus signed copy of FSF Award recipient, special recognition in conference program and two free tickets for the 2004 conference. **FSF Patron:** All benefits of *Benefactor membership*, plus signed copy of work by FSF Award recipient, special recognition in conference program and four free tickets for the 2004 conference. **FSF Sponsor:** All benefits of *Patron membership*, plus a signed copy of work by FSF Award recipient, special recognition in conference program and six free tickets for the 2004 conference. **FSF Corporate Sponsor:** *All benefits of Sponsor membership, plus a signed copy of work by FSF Award recipient, your corporate logo printed in conference program, and 10 free tickets for the 2004 conference.*

Pre-registration for the conference is highly recommended.

Early Registration Deadline: Registration and fees must be received no later than **OCT. 8**, to receive early registration discount. **Writing Workshop Deadlines and Requirements:** Writing Workshops space is limited. Advance registration and submission of manuscripts is **REQUIRED** to have work critiqued. **Applications, manuscripts and applicable fees must be received no later than OCT. 8.** Workshop space will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. **Late Registration:** Mail, email or fax registrations received after Monday, Oct. 18, will not be processed but will be treated as registrations on the morning of the conference. Please check-in at the registration table as applicable. **Manuscript Requirements:** The manuscript (published or unpublished) **must** be typed, double-spaced and in standard font. It must be formatted with at least a one-inch border and be no more than 10 pages in length. On the day of the conference, bring **10 copies** of your manuscript for distribution to workshop participants. Note: Two-page synopsis only is required for Children's Literature Workshop. **Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities:** Montgomery College is handicapped accessible. **Book Exhibits and Sales:** A selection of new and used books by Fitzgerald — as well as books by all conference panelists, presenters and award-winners — will be available for purchase at book sellers' exhibits in the Theatre Arts Building. **Cancellation Policy:** Cancellation refund requests must be received no later than Oct. 6; a **\$10 processing fee** will be charged for all cancellations. **For more information: Phone 301-309-9461. Overnight Accommodations:** Provided by the Woodfin Suite Hotel in Rockville at a discounted rate of \$89/per night (plus tax), with proof of Conference registration. For more information, contact 1-888-433-9407 or www.woodfinsuitehotels.com. Direct dial 301-590-9880. **Conference Location and Directions to Montgomery College, Rockville Campus:** *From the north:* Take I-270 South to Exit 6 (Route 28, W. Montgomery Ave./Rockville). Turn left at light at end of ramp onto Route 28 East. Turn left at first traffic light onto Nelson Street. At first traffic light, turn left at Mannakee Street. The campus is 1 1/2 blocks on the left. *From the south:* Take I-495 to Exit 35 (I-270 North/Frederick). Take Exit 6A. Cross over Route 28, W. Montgomery Ave. at light at end of off-ramp. Follow Montgomery College sign through traffic light (road becomes Nelson Street). At first traffic light, turn left at Mannakee Street. The campus is 1 1/2 blocks on the left. The campus also is easily accessible from the Rockville Metro Station via the Ride-On bus or the Metrobus.

REGISTRATION FORM

Make checks payable to F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc. and mail check and form to: F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc., Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850. OR — Complete this form including credit card information and fax to: 240-314-8669.

☐ My manuscript is enclosed. My choice of Workshop is:

(Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choice and we will try to accommodate them.)
____ Fiction: ☐ Maxine Clair or ☐ Alan Cheuse or ☐ Patricia Elam _____ Memoirs: E. Ethelbert Miller
____ Playwriting: Ernest Joselovitz _____ Poetry: Sean Enright _____ Children's Literature: Ellen Braaf

	COST/PERSON	# OF TICKETS	SUB-TOTAL
Early Reg. Conference price prior to Oct. 8 (includes all events)	\$60 gen./\$54 mem.; \$40 sen./\$36 mem.; \$15 student*/\$13 mem.		\$
Conference price after Oct. 8 (includes all events)	\$70 gen./\$63 mem.; \$50 sen./\$45 mem.; \$15 student*/\$13 mem.		\$
Conference price - Evening only (includes reception & awards ceremony)	\$25 gen./\$22 mem.; \$20 sen./\$18 mem.; \$10 student*/\$9 mem.		\$
Membership Level Fee (See listing of levels.)			\$
Optional tax-deductible donation to the FSF Literary Conference, Inc. (501(c)3 organization)			\$
<i>*Students must include a copy of their current student ID card.</i>		TOTAL	\$

Mr./Ms./Dr. _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____
Payment Method: ☐ Check enclosed for the amount of: \$ _____ Check # _____
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA Exp. Date: ____/____/____ Card # _____
Card Holder Name: _____
Card Holder Signature: _____

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8-9 a.m. • Coffee and Registration — Montgomery College Theatre Arts Building Foyer. Registration and Information Desk will be open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

9-9:15 a.m. • Welcome and Opening Remarks
• John Moser, Chairman of FSF Literary Conference
• The Honorable Larry Giammo, Mayor, City of Rockville
• Carolyn Terry, Dean for Humanities and Social Sciences, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus

9:15-10:30 a.m. • Reading and Reviewing: Twenty-Five Years at The Washington Post Book World
Michael Dirda, Editor for The Washington Post Book World

9:30-12 noon • Morning Writing Workshop
Patricia Elam, Fiction Workshop Leader/Short Stories*

10:45 a.m.-12 noon • Conversation with Two Authors
Alice McDermott and Michael Dirda

12 noon-1 p.m. • Lunch — M.C. Theatre Arts Building Auditorium

1-2 p.m. • Visit Fitzgerald Sites in Rockville
Eileen McGuckian, executive director, and Suzanne Fisher, past president, of Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd., will be your guides.

1:30-4 p.m. • Afternoon Writing Workshops-Concurrent Sessions
• Alan Cheuse, Maxine Clair; Fiction Workshop Leaders*
• E. Ethelbert Miller; Memoirs Workshop Leader*
• Ernest Joselovitz; Playwriting Workshop Leader*
• Sean Enright; Poetry Workshop Leader*
• Ellen Braaf; Children's Literature Workshop Leader*

2-4 p.m. • The Movie: *Enormous Changes* starring Kevin Bacon
A screening of the movie and remarks by Grace Paley

4-5 p.m. • A Gathering of New and Aspiring Writers: Successes, Failures, Thoughts and Ideas on Getting Published Judy Hruz, novelist and editor, Gazette Newspapers

5-6 p.m. • Reception — M.C. Theatre Arts Building Auditorium

6-7:30 p.m. • Awards Ceremony, Readings and Book Signing
Judy E. Ackerman, Vice President and Provost, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus

Presentation of the Seventh Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald High School Short Story Contest Winner
Judge: Sam Blate
Previous winners: Kari Ginsburg - 1998; Carinne Prest - 1999; Rachel Gatwood - 2000; Meg Kochuba - 2001; Betsy Bangert - 2002; Xuancong Wen - 2003

Presentation of the Ninth Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Short Story Contest Winner
Judge: Alan Cheuse
Previous winners: Jeff Minerd - 1996; Anna Olswanger - 1997; Jody Lannen Brady - 1998; Gretchen Comba - 1999; James Mathews - 2000; Bill Glose - 2001; Michael Langley - 2002; Larry Bevan - 2003

Presentation of the Ninth Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature
Introduction: Neil D. Isaacs, Professor Emeritus of English Language and Literature, University of Maryland

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award was established in 1996 to recognize outstanding achievement in American literature.
Previous winners: William Styron - 1996; John Barth - 1997; Joyce Carol Oates - 1998; E.L. Doctorow - 1999; Norman Mailer - 2000; Ernest J. Gaines - 2001; John Updike - 2002; Edward Albee - 2003
2004 Recipient: Grace Paley, acceptance and reading by Ms. Paley.

*Note: For writing workshops, see registration information for pre-registration and pre-submission requirements for works to be critiqued.

Little Theatre, Musical Theatre: Still Entertaining Rockville



Rockville Musical Theatre has entertained audiences for three decades.

The Rockville Little Theatre (RLT) and Rockville Musical Theatre (RMT) are both community-based organizations whose productions have entertained Rockville for decades. Each group is composed of talented performers of all ages, many of them Rockville residents.

Getting tickets to see performances of each group at Rockville’s F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville Civic Center Park is now easier than ever. The RLT/RMT Consortium offers a combination season ticket. Each theater group has upcoming performances that will appeal to a wide audience.

Tickets for performances are now available online through the City of Rockville’s Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre (click on the TicketLeap link) or at the F. Scott Fitzgerald box office.

The Rockville Little Theatre and the Rockville Musical Theatre each have exciting productions planned for this season:

Rockville Little Theatre

The Rockville Little Theatre comes off an award-winning season with ambitious plans for the coming year. This time, RLT will not just be clowning around.

RLT’s next performance will be “A Thousand Clowns,” a critically-acclaimed comedy that will take place Jan. 14, 15, 21-23, 28 and 29. Auditions will be held on Oct. 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Glenview Mansion.

Since 1947, Rockville Little Theatre has provided outstanding live theater for the community and the region. With more than 60 members, the group performs at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre three times each year.

Last summer, Darius Suziedelis, performing in Rockville Little Theatre’s entry in the 23rd Annual Northern Virginia Theatre Association’s One-Act Festival in Reston, received the award for best actor in “Piano Man,” an original piece by Audrey Cefaly.

The play featured Suziedelis and Guy Palace and was directed by Erika Imhoof. The stage manager was Clare Flood. All are

members of RLT. The production received an award nomination for best original play and Guy also was nominated for best actor.

“The quality of the community productions at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is outstanding and rivals many professional productions I’ve seen,” said Jane Green, president of RLT. “Why go someplace else when you can see and participate in great theater right here in Rockville?”

For audition or ticket information, visit www.rlt-online.org or call 301-340-1417.

Rockville Musical Theatre

Performing two top-quality Broadway musicals each year, the Rockville Musical Theatre (RMT) has carved a distinct niche within the community for almost 30 years.

“Rockville Musical Theatre is a great place to have fun and be part of a high-quality musical theater production,” said David Lashof, former RMT president and current secretary. “You make new life-long friends and get a true sense of community.”

In October and November, RMT will present “Ragtime,” an adaptation of E. L. Doctorow’s novel that takes theater-goers into the lives of fascinating characters in a tale of turn-of-the-century America. Performance dates are Oct. 29, 30, Nov. 5-7, 12, 13, 19 and 20. All shows are at 8 p.m. except for the Sunday, Nov. 7, matinee at 2 p.m.

Membership in RMT is unrestricted. Volunteers are welcomed for on-stage roles as well as behind the scenes work.

One of RMT’s annual highlights is its award of a full-year scholarship to Montgomery College in the Theatre/Music/Dance program. The opportunity is presented with the intent of fostering a lifetime love of the performing arts.

For more information on the opportunities available with RMT, visit www.r-m-t.org or call 301-530-6477.

Dave Pedersen Music Memorial

The Rockville Concert Band held a special memorial concert on Sept. 26 in honor of the late David Pedersen, a longtime band member who died in a car accident in May 2002.

The director and the Administrative Board of the Rockville Concert Band together with Councilmember John F. Hall, Jr., thanked members of the Pedersen family and Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc. for establishing the Dave Pedersen Music Memorial Fund.

In lieu of flowers, donations totaling \$4,500 were received by the family for the fund. Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., the company where Pedersen was employed, also donated \$5,000 to the fund. The donations will be used to purchase sheet music and music cataloging computer equipment for the band.



A FEW GRAINS OF MEMORIES...Members of the Dawson family gathered on Saturday, Sept. 18, to help Rockville dedicate the new granary pavilion that is part of the former Rocky Glen/Dawson Farm. Although most of the farm area has since been developed, the City has maintained about five acres as a neighborhood park. The covered structure reflects the granary that once was part of the farm that dated to the 1800s. Joining the dedication were Rockville Councilmember Anne Robbins (third from right), Mayor Larry Giammo (fifth from right) and Councilmember John Hall, Jr. (seventh from right). State Delegate Luiz Simmons (second from left) and State Senator Jenny Forehand (not in photo) also were among those attending the dedication.

Rockville Civic Ballet
Claudia Mangan, Director

“The Nutcracker”

Saturdays, December 4 and 11
2 and 7:30 p.m.

Sundays, December 5 and 12
2 p.m.

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre
Rockville Civic Center Park

Tickets: Adults \$10

Children (12 years and under) \$8

Senior Citizens (60 years and older) \$8

Group Rates: \$9.50 each for seven or more adult tickets

\$7.50 each for 10 or more children/senior citizens tickets

Assigned seat tickets may be purchased in person, by phone or by mail order at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Box Office beginning Nov. 9. In-person sales are available from 2-7 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. The box office is located at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, Md. 20851. The box office telephone number is 240-314-8690. Purchase online at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

Mayor and Council

Mayor Larry Giammo
Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey
Councilmember John F. Hall, Jr.
Councilmember Susan R. Hoffmann
Councilmember Anne M. Robbins

FOCUS ON THE ARTS

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Focus on the Arts is the official Arts Newsletter for the City of Rockville Cultural Arts Commission and the Arts Division of the Department of Recreation and Parks, published quarterly at 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850. It is delivered to all residents of Rockville as an insert in the City of Rockville newsletter. Deadline for news is one month before publishing. Call 240-314-8116.

ROCKVILLE ARTS HOTLINE 240-314-5006

Call for recorded information on contact numbers and general program information. Discover concerts, gallery exhibits, special events, theatre performances, musicals, dance productions, art classes and other arts offerings—all right here in Rockville!

October Glenview Exhibit

The human form will be the subject of artwork on display at Glenview Mansion Oct. 3-Nov. 2.



Clockwise from left to right:

Jan S. Heginbotham
"Triangle Stretch"
Bronze
1994/99 Copyright

Allison B. Miner
Untitled
Oil on canvas
2002

Deanna Schwartzberg
"Luminae"
Water born series
acrylic assemblage

Figurative Imagery Oct. 3 – Nov. 2

Opening Reception:
1-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 3

Artist Talk:
7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21

Guided Gallery Tour:
10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 22

Glenview Mansion
Art Gallery
603 Edmonston Drive
Rockville



Rockville Chorus Director (Temporarily) Passes the Baton

Alison Leadbetter-Hines will pick up the baton as acting director of the Rockville Chorus for its 2004-2005 season while Director Bryan Seith is on sabbatical.

Seith is taking a break from his 13-year tenure directing the chrous to teach part-time and compose music in Costa Rica. He will return as director in June of 2005.

"I will really enjoy working with this wonderful group of performers," said Leadbetter-Hines, an accomplished teacher, choir director, accompanist and performer. "And only expect wonderful things."

Leadbetter-Hines is well known throughout the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, and especially in Rockville. She is very familiar with the adult chorus of 70



to 80 members as she has previously substituted as director for Seith. Leadbetter-Hines also has attended many of the group's performances and privately tutors some of the members.

The Rockville Chorus is practicing for its next performance, the holiday

concert, "Solstice Celebrations," on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in Rockville Civic Center Park. The performance will feature "Motets" by Palestrina and Pachelbel, with spiritual and seasonal music and other favorites to complete the celebration of the Winter Solstice.

Performances are free. For more information visit www.rockvillemd.gov/arts/chorus or call 240-314-8682.

The Arts in Rockville: Fall Calendar of Events

GLENVIEW MANSION ART GALLERY

Second Floor, Glenview Mansion
Rockville Civic Center Park, 603
Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8682.
Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
– 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday
– 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Closed official holidays.

Oct. 3-Nov. 2
Figurative Imagery
Jan S. Heginbotham – bronze sculpture
Allison B. Miner – oil painting
Deanna Schwartzberg – painted paper assemblages
Opening Reception: Sunday, Oct. 3, 1-4 p.m.
Artist Talk: Thursday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Gallery Tour: Friday., Oct. 22, 10 a.m.

**ROCKVILLE ARTS
HOTLINE: 240-314-5006**
Call any time for recorded information on contact numbers and general program information. Discover concerts, gallery exhibits, special events, theatre performances, musicals, dance productions, art classes and other arts offerings all right here in Rockville. Directions to Rockville Civic Center Park: 240-314-5004

**F. SCOTT FITZGERALD
THEATRE BOX OFFICE
HOURS:** Tuesday through Saturday (2-7 p.m.) and two hours prior to performance time. Location: Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690
Theatre patrons may purchase tickets in person, by phone or by mail order. To purchase tickets by mail order, include your name, address, phone number and the date and time of the performance for which you are purchasing tickets. If you are sending a check, make it payable to the City of Rockville. If you are using a credit card, include the type of card (MasterCard/Visa), the name on the card, account number and expiration date.

Nov. 7-30
Connie Ward Woolard
"Treasures of Rockville: Historic Homes and Buildings"
Maryland Society of Portrait Painters
Portraiture by 57 members artists. Varied media
Opening Reception: Sunday, Nov. 7, 1-4 p.m.
Artist Talk: Thursday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Gallery Tour: Friday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m.

Dec. 5-31
Rockville Art League
Juried members show. Varied media
Opening: Sunday, Dec. 5, 1-4 p.m.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON
CONCERT SERIES**
Conservatory 1st floor, Glenview Mansion,
Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston
Drive 240-314-868. 2 p.m. FREE. No ticket
required. Seating on a first-come, first-served
basis.

Oct. 3 • 2 p.m.
Ron Warren and Friends
Native American award-winning
flute concert

Nov. 7 • 2 p.m.
U. S. Navy Band Chamber Ensemble
Enjoy a varied repertoire reflecting the
diversity of American music.

Dec. 5 • 1-4 p.m.
Glenview Mansion
Holiday Open House
Various musical performances each hour

**F. SCOTT FITZGERALD
THEATRE**
Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston
Drive 240-314-8690

Oct. 2 • 8 p.m.
National Philharmonic Piano Recital
Awadagin Pratt
Beethoven "Moonlight"
Listz "Sonata in B Minor"
For information, call 301-762-8580

Oct. 9 • 8 p.m.
Oct. 10 • 2 p.m.
Victorian Lyric Opera Company
"The Desert Song"
Adults: \$15; Students: (16 and under) \$12
For more information, call 301-879-0220

October 16 • 8 p.m.
**National Philharmonic Chorale and
Chamber Orchestra Concert**
Piotr Gajewski, Conductor
"Timeless Genius"
Rosa Lamoreaux, Soprano
Julie Keim, Soprano
Rebekah Ambrosini, Alto
Robert Petillo, Tenor
Steven Combs, Bass
J. S. Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 3
J. S. Bach Orchestral Suite No. 3
J. S. Bach Magnificat
Tickets Adults: \$41, \$31 and \$21; Children
7 to 17 free with ticket
For more information, call 301-762-8580

Oct. 17 • 3 p.m.
Rockville Concert Band Concert
Pre-concert at 2 p.m. "Flutes on the
Brink"†
Free. Donations accepted.
For information, call 240-314-8681

Oct. 28* • 8 p.m.
**Oct. 29, 30, Nov. 5, 6, 12,
13, 19, 20 • 8 p.m.**
Nov. 7 • 2 p.m.
Rockville Musical Theatre
"Ragtime"
Tickets: Adults: \$15; Youth (18 years old
and under) \$8. For membership information,
call 301-530-6477

Nov. 21 • 3 p.m.
Rockville Concert Band Concert
Pre-concert at 2 p.m. "Clarinets Three"†
Free. Donations accepted.
For information, call 240-314-8681

November 27 • 8 p.m.
**National Philharmonic
Chamber Orchestra Concert**
Piotr Gajewski, Conductor
"Dynamic Animation"
Eric Himy, Piano

Martin – Etudes for String Orchestra
Shostakovich – Piano Concerto No. 1
Dvorak – Serenade
Tickets: \$41, \$31 and \$21. For more information,
call 301-762-8580

Dec. 4 • 2 and 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 5 • 2 p.m.
Dec. 11 • 2 and 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 12 • 2 p.m.
Rockville Civic Ballet
"The Nutcracker"
Tickets: Adults \$10 ; Children (Ages 12
and under) \$8; Senior Citizens (Ages 60
and older) \$8. For information, call 240-
314-8681

Dec. 17 and 18 • 8 p.m.
**National Philharmonic
Chorale Concert**
Dr. Stanley Engebretson, Conductor
"Joyful Majesty"
Rosa Lamoreaux, Soprano
Rebekah Ambrosini, Alto
Robert Petillo, Tenor
Steven Combs, Bass
Choral Materworks
Handel-Messiah
Tickets: \$41, \$31 and \$21. For more information
call 301-762-8580

Dec. 19 • 3 p.m.
**Rockville Concert Band
Holiday Concert**
Pre-concert at 2 p.m. "Clarinet Choir"†
Free. Donations accepted. For information,
call 240-314-8681

Dec. 19 • 7:30 p.m.
Rockville Chorus Holiday Concert
Free. Donations accepted.
For information, call 240-314-8682

†Seating is limited and is available on a first-come,
first-served basis.

*Senior citizens (60 years or older) may attend
dress rehearsals. Tickets are required and may be
obtained at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office.
Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.